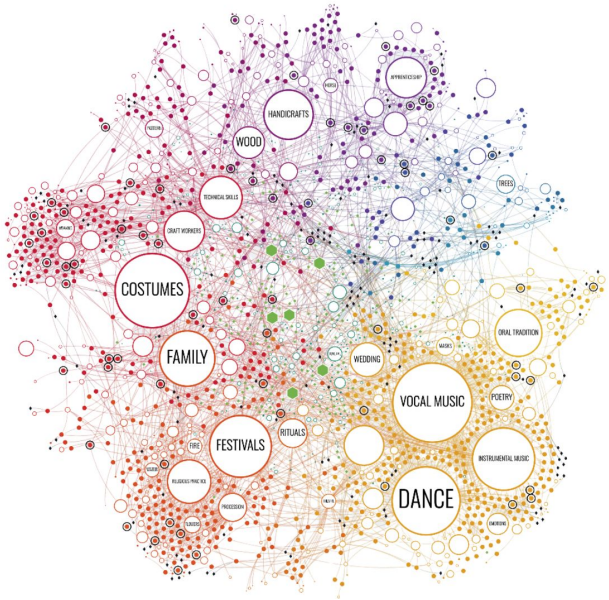
CAPACITY BUILDING COURSE

Safeguarding living heritage

3 & 4 November 2025, online
10 & 11 November 2025, Helsinki



unesco
Intangible Cultural Heritage

Museovirasto
Museiverket
Finnish Heritage Agency

WORKSHOP INTANGIBLE HERITAGE BE

FLAME

AIMS of the training

- deepen **knowledge** on the **UNESCO ICH Convention**
- enhance **skills** to develop effective **safeguarding plans** for ICH
- strengthen **networking** among **various actors** in ICH

Capacity Building TEAM

Leena Marsio

Matti Hakamä

Sohini Nandi



Jorijn Neyrinck

Evdokia Tsakiridis (*Kia*)

Shana Van Hauwermeiren

Kato Masschelein

Jorijn Neyrinck

Facilitator for the **UNESCO** 2003 Convention Capacity Building Programme
-
Coordinator NGO Workshop intangible heritage





Evdokia Tsakiridis (Kia)

Manager NGO Workshop intangible heritage
-
Board FLAME - The European Centre for the Safeguarding of Living Heritage

WORKSHOP INTANGIBLE HERITAGE BE

Shana Van Hauwermeiren

Staff member & **educator** 'safeguarding with **heritage professionals**'





Kato Masschelein

Staff member & **educator** 'safeguarding with **heritage communities**'

Leena Marsio

Senior Adviser
-
Finnish Heritage Agency





Matti Hakamäki

Facilitator for the **UNESCO** 2003 Convention Capacity Building Programme
-
Finnish Folk Music Institute

Museovirasto
Museiverket
Finnish Heritage Agency

KANSANMUSIIKKI-INSTITUUTTI

Sohini Nandi

Conservation Architect and Museum professional
-
Work trainee



What are your expectations and wishes from the course?



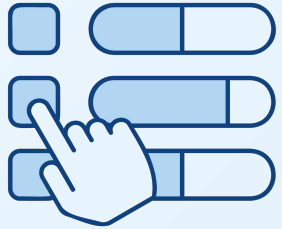
POL

L

1. How do you identify for this course? I am a…:

(1 answer possible)

- ❑ Living heritage practitioner
- ❑ Heritage professional
- ❑ Living heritage professional
- ❑ Combination
- ❑ Something else



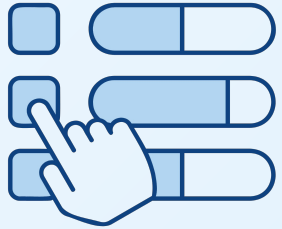
POL

L

2. What experience do you have in regards to safeguarding?

(1 answer possible)

- ❑ Safeguarding is still new to me
- ❑ I have little experience
- ❑ I have some experience
- ❑ I have a lot of experience



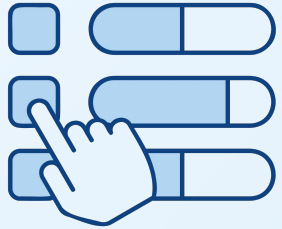
POL

L

3. What's your main goal for participating in this training?

(multiple answers possible)

- ❑ Inspiration
- ❑ Tools
- ❑ Networking
- ❑ Exercises
- ❑ Theoretical knowledge on UNESCO



AGENDA | 3 November 2025

Kick off session *(online)*

2.00 pm		**Welcome & introductions**
2.55 pm		*5 min. break*
3.00 pm		**REFRESH Session *(part 1)*** ***UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION - Basic principles***
3.45 pm		**Q&A**

AGENDA | 4 November 2025

(online)

2.00 pm	|	REFRESH Session (part 2)
3.00 pm	|	*Safeguarding Living Heritage in Finland*
3.30 pm	|	Q&A

AGENDA | 10 November 2025

in person *(Helsinki)*

9.00 am		**Check-in & introductions**
9.30 am		***Inspiration session: safeguarding: what & how?***
12.00 pm		*LUNCH (self paid)*
1.00 pm		**Workshops: learning to develop safeguarding planning** *(part 1 – parallel sessions: group work)*
4.00 pm		**Round-up & exchange**
4.30 pm		*Closing*
5.00 pm		**Joint dinner with trainers and participants *(optional, self paid)***

AGENDA | 11 November 2025

in person *(Helsinki)*

9.00 am		**Food for thought – Recent Developments**
10.00 am		**Workshops: Learning to develop Safeguarding planning** ***(part 2 – parallel sessions: group work)***
12.30 pm		*LUNCH (self paid)*
1.30 pm		**Group Work – Safeguarding with multiple stakeholders**
3.30 pm		***Learning Network session and Closing***
4.30 pm		*End*



5 minutes break

Refresh Session (part 1)

UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION

Basic principles

What does living heritage mean to you?





17 October 2025

2nd international day for the Intangible Cultural Heritage


We are
#LivingHeritage
© León Dario Peláez, 2005 (Colombia)

heritage types

TANGIBLE

INTANGIBLE

IMMOVABLE



- monument
- landscape
- archaeological heritage
- ...

MOVABLE



- paintings, sculptures, visual arts, ...
- textiles, furnitures
- documentary and archival heritage
- ...

INTANGIBLE



- oral traditions
- crafts
- rituals and festivities
- performing arts
- ...

intangible cultural heritage (ICH)?



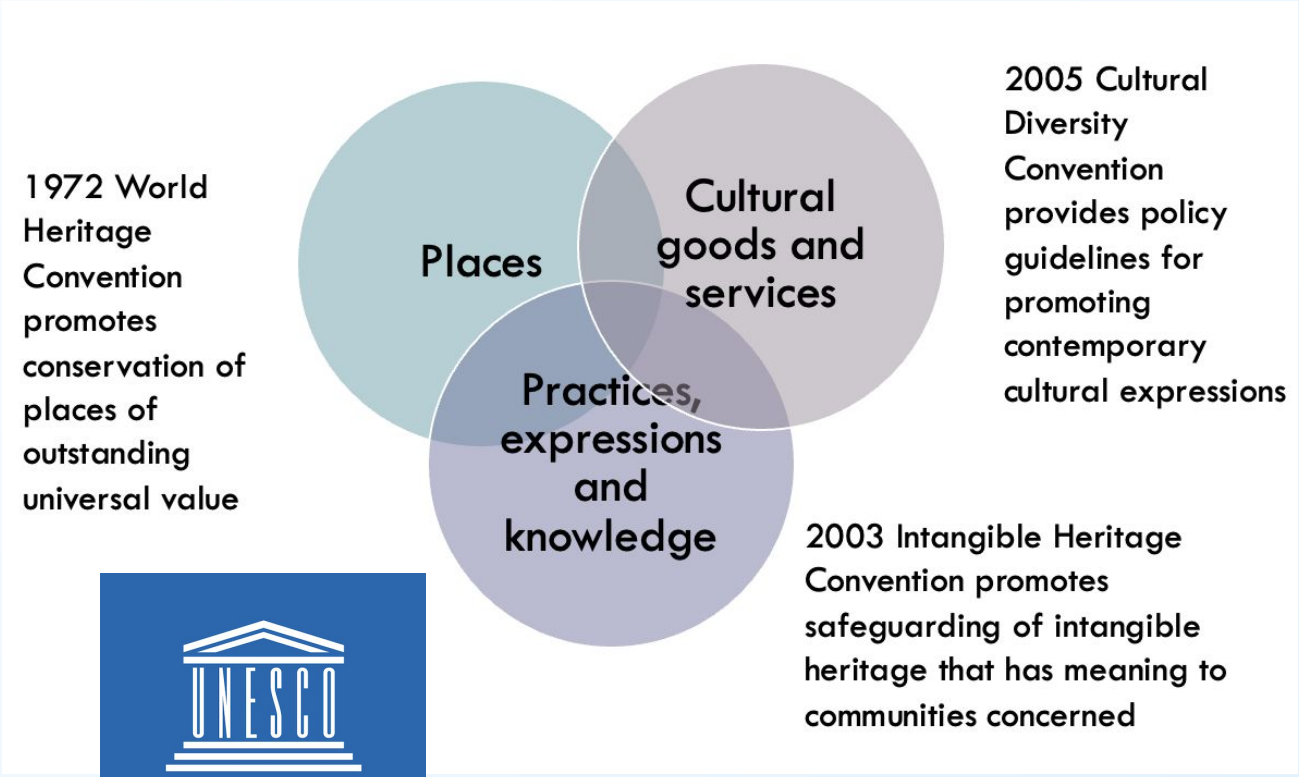


= the **U**nited **N**ations **E**ducational, **S**cientific and **C**ultural **O**rganization

*"It seeks to **build peace through international cooperation** in Education, Sciences and Culture."*

→ UNESCO's programmes contribute to the achievement of the **Sustainable Development Goals** defined in Agenda 2030, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015.

3 related UNESCO CONVENTIONS



UNESCO 2003 Convention for the safeguarding of ICH

turning the tidings

UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION

shifting heritage paradigm

participatory turn in governance

Turn of 20th century…



21st century - PARADIGM SHIFT

tangible heritage

- object
- things
- authenticity
- past
- protection and conservation
- archive and documentation
- top-down
- expert
- museum approach

intangible heritage

- embodied/human being
- process
- living and dynamic
- future
- safeguarding
- transmission and continuance
- bottom-up: ownership
- participation
- anthropological approach



World heritage – 1972

- unique heritage
- authentic
- outstanding universal value
- protection

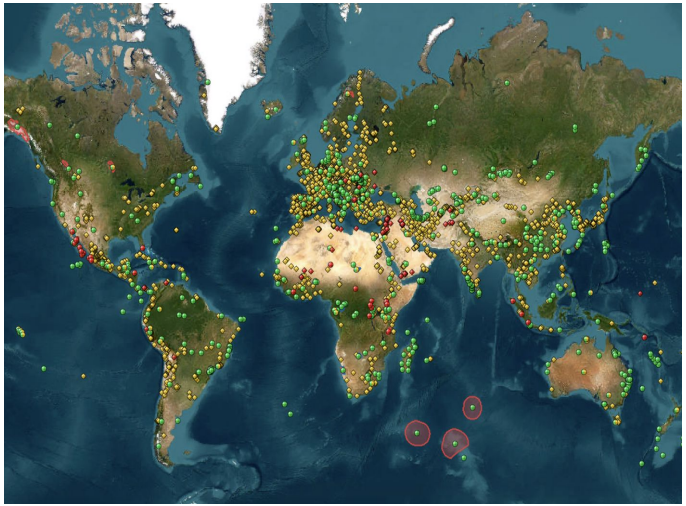


Intangible heritage – 2003

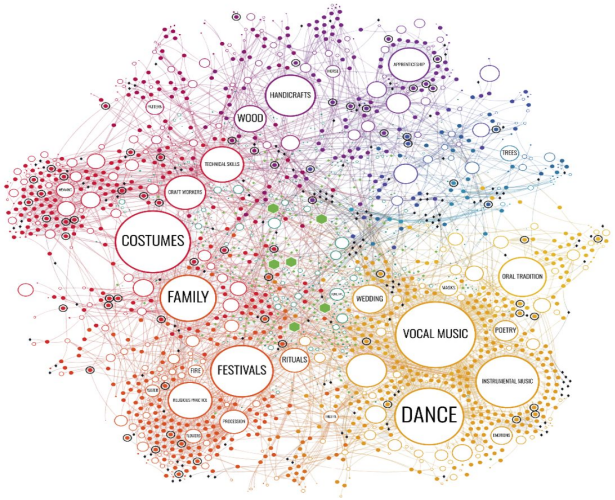
- diverse heritage
- living and dynamic
- communities concerned value
- safeguarding
  → transmission to future

UNESCO LISTS

World Heritage



Intangible Cultural Heritage



UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION
for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage

heritage as human diversity and creativity

Communities, groups and individuals

the participatory turn

sustainable development

making futures in/by/for heritage

UNESCO STANDARD SETTING

UNESCO 2003 Convention - MECHANISMS

Organs of the Convention

- General Assembly, Intergovernmental Committee, Bureau
- Secretariat (UNESCO - Living Heritage Entity (LHE))
- Evaluation Body (assessing nomination forms, International Assistance)

Lists of ICH

Inventories at the national level

International lists:

- Urgent Safeguarding List
- Representative List
- Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

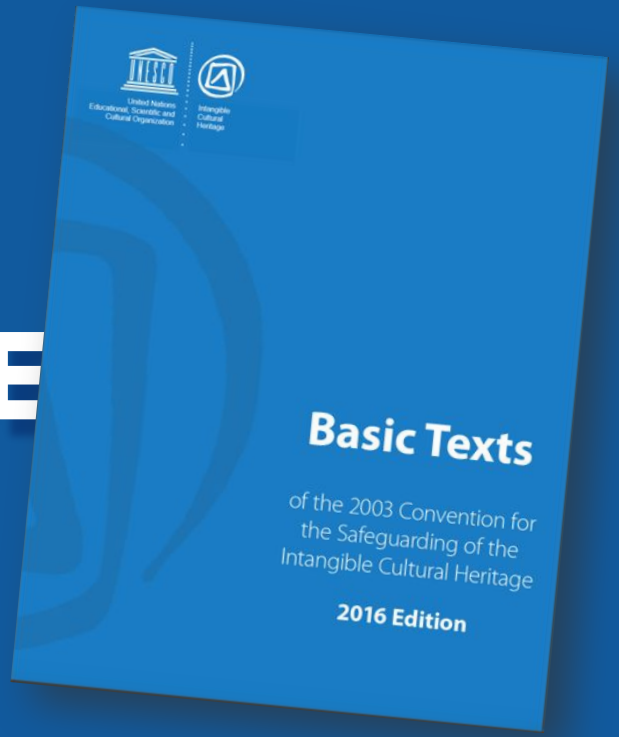
Texts of the Convention

- Convention
- Operational Directives
- Ethical Principles

→ BASIC TEXTS

the basics

KEY CONCE



UNESCO 2003 Convention aims at ...

Safeguarding ICH with and by the people concerned in a context of sustainable development and mutual respect

Fully involving and empowering communities and groups - and in some cases individuals - in any action concerning their ICH

Enhancing cultural diversity, human creativity, mutual understanding and international cooperation

intangible cultural heritage or ‘living heritage’

article 2.1

definition of ICH (1)

For the purposes of the Convention, the ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage’ means the **practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills**

– as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith –

that **communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals** recognize as part of their cultural heritage.

intangible cultural heritage or ‘living heritage’

article 2.1

definition of ICH (2)

This intangible cultural heritage, **transmitted from generation to generation**, is constantly **recreated** by communities and groups in response to their **environment**, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with **a sense of identity and continuity**, thus promoting **respect for cultural diversity and human creativity**.

intangible cultural heritage or ‘living heritage’

article 2.1

definition of ICH (3)

For the purposes of this Convention, consideration will be given solely to such intangible cultural heritage as is compatible with existing international **human rights** instruments, as well as with the requirements of **mutual respect** among communities, groups and individuals, and of **sustainable development**.

Domains of ICH



Domains of ICH

article 2.2

oral traditions and expressions

including language as a vehicle of ICH



Anansi storytelling (NL)
© Nederlands Openluchtmuseum

Domains of ICH

article 2.2

performing arts



Tea Time Company (BE)
© Fotokultuur

Domains of ICH

article 2.2

social practices, rituals and festive events



Winegrowers' Festival in Vevey (CH)
© Confrérie de Vignerons

Domains of ICH

article 2.2

knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe



Gathering of wild herbs, fruits and mushrooms in the Massif des Bauges
© Flore Giraud

Domains of ICH

article 2.2

traditional crafts-manship



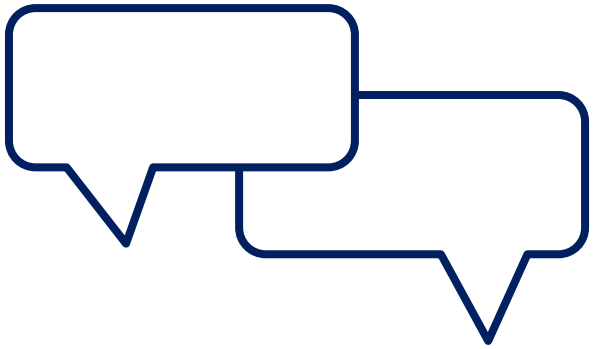
Weaving in Aubussons (FR)
© RE, Service Communication
ICH-domain Creuse Grand Sud

Domains of ICH

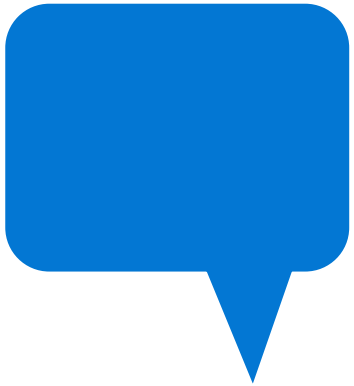
…are also open to

- **combining** domains
- **other** domains, e.g. foodways, traditional sports and games, …





Q&A





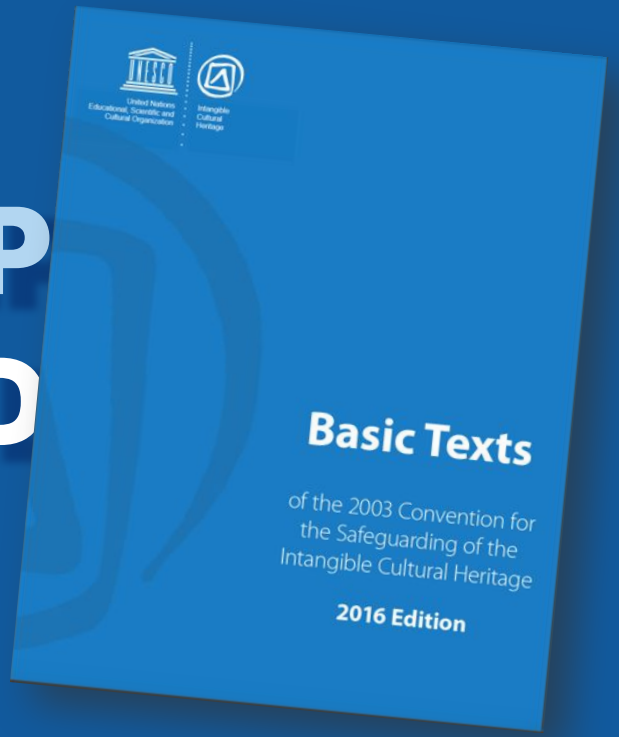
Closing

Refresh Session (part 2)

Basic principles of safeguarding

with the UNESCO 2003 CONVENTION

the basics
KEY CONCEP
‘SAFEGUARD



Safeguarding living heritage

article 2.3

definition of safeguarding

“Safeguarding” means measures aimed at **ensuring the viability** of the intangible cultural heritage, including the identification, documentation, research, preservation, protection, promotion, enhancement, transmission, particularly through formal and non-formal education, as well as the revitalization of the various aspects of such heritage.

How to take care of a heritage that is not tangible, a heritage that is embodied and living?



How to take care of
a heritage that is not
tangible,
a heritage that is
embodied and living

?

Safeguarding

= means ensuring the viability
of the intangible cultural heritage

How to take care of
a heritage that is not
tangible,
a heritage that is
embodied and living

?

Safeguarding

= means ensuring the viability
of the intangible cultural heritage

Safeguarding **measures**

= address threats and/or risks to the viability of the ICH

Article 11 (a), 14 (b), Operational Directives 1, 2, 7 (OD)

Concerns about

- **Deterioration, disappearance, destruction of ICH** (Preamble)
- **Protecting human rights, mutual respect, natural resources** (art. 2.1; OD 116)
- **Freezing of ICH** (Article 2.1; OD 116, 170)
- **Loss of function and meaning** (OD 117)
- **De-contextualization** (OD 102 (a), 171)
- **Misrepresentation** (OD 102 (b)) **or Misappropriation of ICH** (OD 117)
- ...

Safeguarding - States Parties & UNESCO

Article 11 (a)

States Parties shall *'take the necessary measures to ensure the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage present in [their] territory'*

Article 17 (a)

Urgent Safeguarding List (USL)

Article 18

Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

ICH Fund

Priority assistance from ICH Fund to elements on USL

States Parties - general measures

Article 11 (a) invites parties to:

- **Inventory** the ICH
- **Adopt legal, administrative and financial measures** for safeguarding ICH
- **Raise awareness and foster respect** for ICH
- **Encourage communities** to undertake safeguarding activities
- **Support communities** to ensure that they benefit from safeguarding of ICH

General measures - examples

Inventorying, or media programmes used to **give visibility to and raise awareness** about the diversity of ICH in a respectful way

Articles 11, 12, 14(a) ODs 100, 110

Legal, and other regulatory frameworks to protect community rights and promote sustainable development

OD 104 Chapter VI

Risk assessment, monitoring and evaluation

ODs 105(c), 109

Processes enabling community participation and consent, such as:
Article 15

- Capacity building
  OD 82, 107
- Consultative mechanisms and coordinating bodies
  OD 80

Safeguarding - with CGI

Communities, groups and individuals concerned (CGI) are centre stage in identification and action

Practice and transmission by communities and groups concerned continues

ICH retains its **significance** to communities and groups concerned as part of their cultural heritage

Safeguarding - with CGI

How to take care of a heritage that is not tangible, a heritage that is embodied and living

?

To be kept alive, intangible cultural heritage must be relevant to its community, **continuously recreated and transmitted from one generation to another**.

Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is **about the transferring of knowledge, skills and meaning**.

Safeguarding - with CGI

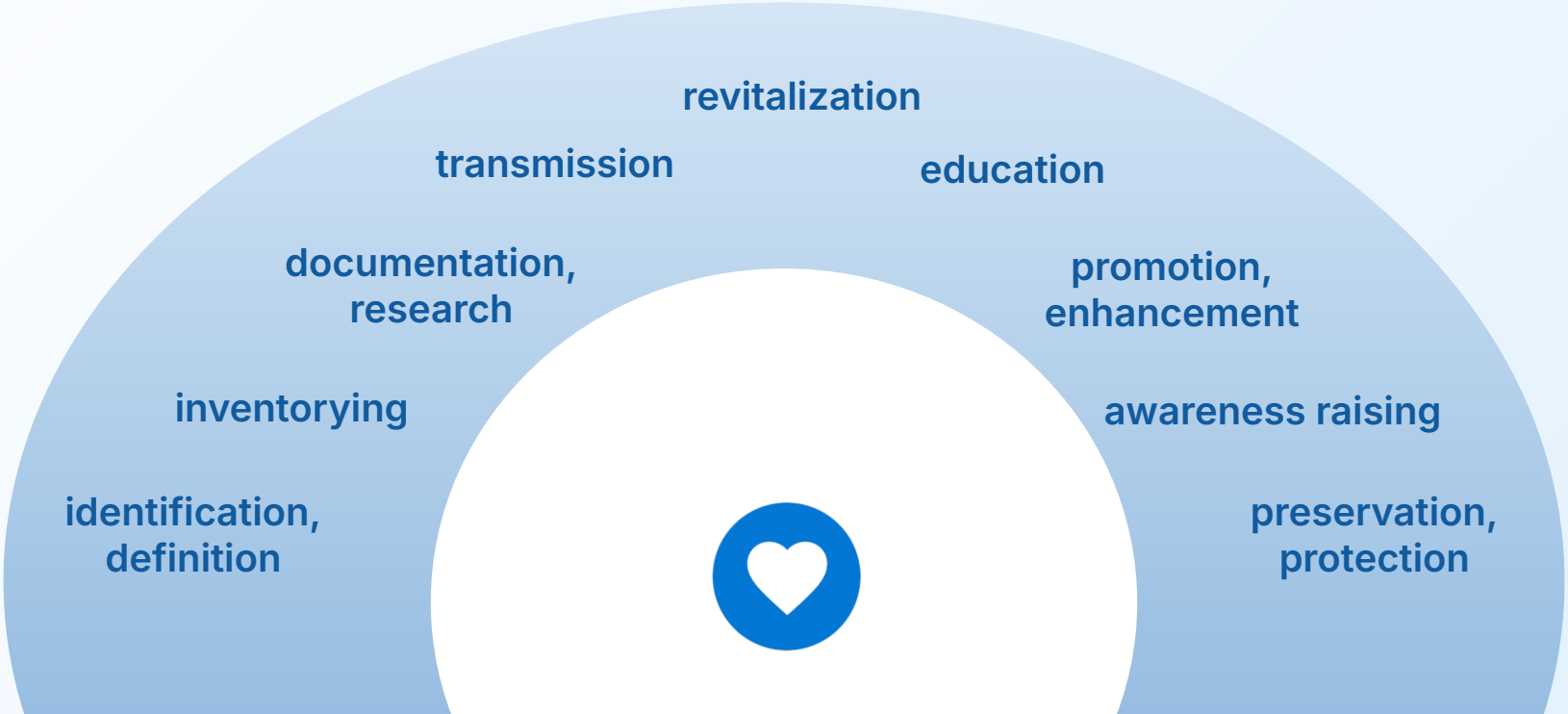
How to take care of a heritage that is not tangible, a heritage that is embodied and living

?

There is a risk that certain elements of intangible cultural heritage could die out or disappear without help, but safeguarding **does not mean fixing or freezing intangible cultural heritage** in some pure or primordial form.

→ Also, not every ICH needs to be continued. And not each ICH can be preserved, even if CGI wish so.

Safeguarding measures

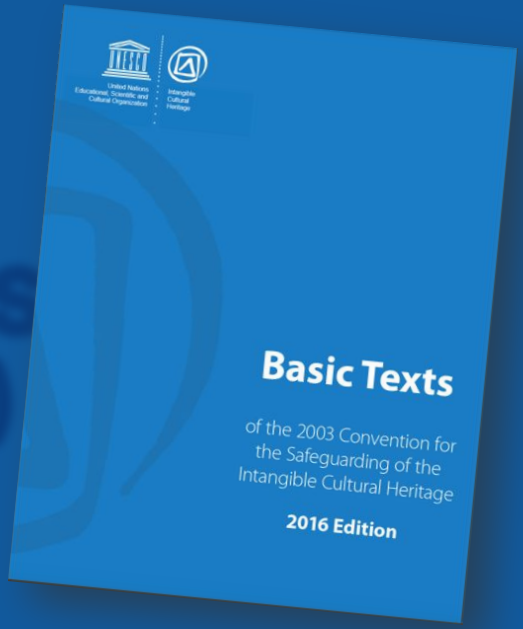


the basics

KEY CONCEPTS

PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS (CGI)

article 15



Participation of CGI

article

Within the framework of its **safeguarding activities** of the intangible cultural heritage, each State Party shall endeavour to ensure the **widest possible participation** of **communities**, **groups** and, where appropriate, **individuals that create, maintain and transmit** such heritage, and to **involve them actively in its management**.



Defining the community concerned

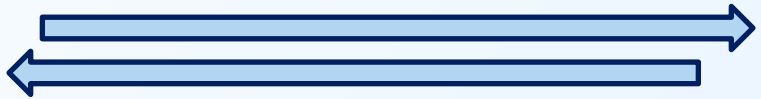


= those who are active **in the practice or transmission** of the ICH element, and consider it to be part of their cultural heritage

The community concerned & the ICH

Creation, practice and transmission
stewardship
gender roles and identities

heritage community



intangible heritage

Sense of identity and continuity
enjoyment
self-respect
sustainability
income generation
gender norms and values

UNESCO 2003 Convention: the participatory turn

Participation



Communities, groups and individuals:

no "passive informants" but

active in collaboration with experts,

researchers, States Parties ...

→ *roles of mediation, facilitation, cultural brokerage, ...*

Actors in the Convention

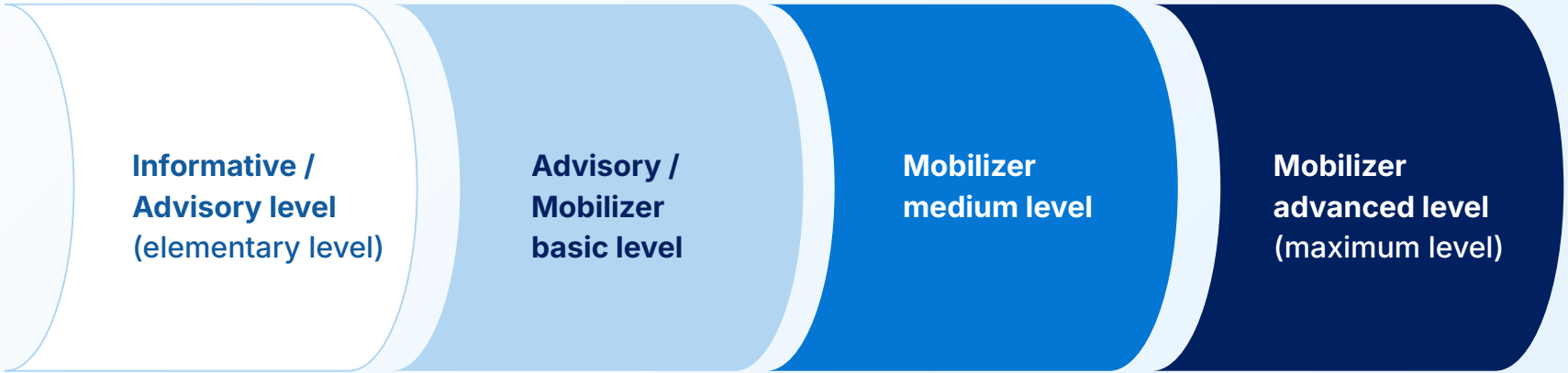
- Communities, groups and individuals concerned
- NGOs, museums, researchers, centres of expertise and research institutes, archives, other heritage organizations, ...
- State agencies, government officials
- Private actors
- General public
- ...

stakeholders
→←
different interests



Participation?

Range & types of community engagement



... along many other models for participation and stakeholder engagement today

Ethical principles



UNESCO 2003 Convention: Inventories & Lists

UNESCO LISTS - Intangible Cultural Heritage

Representative List of the ICH of Humanity

Article 16



2016 - Nauryz, Navruz, Nawrouz, Nevruz, Nooruz, Novruz, Nowrouz or Nowruz

List Of ICH in need of Urgent Safeguarding

Article 17



2021 – Carolinian Wayfinding and Canoe making

Photo: Nagaoka (Japan), Micronesia, 1994

Register of Good Safeguarding Practices

Article 18



2022 – Tocatì – a shared programme for the safeguarding of traditional Sports and Games

© Cyprus National Commission for UNESCO, 2018

Inventorying - an obligation

Article 11 (b)

*[Each State Party shall]... **identify and define** the various elements of the ICH **present in its territory**, with the **participation** of communities, groups and relevant NGOs*

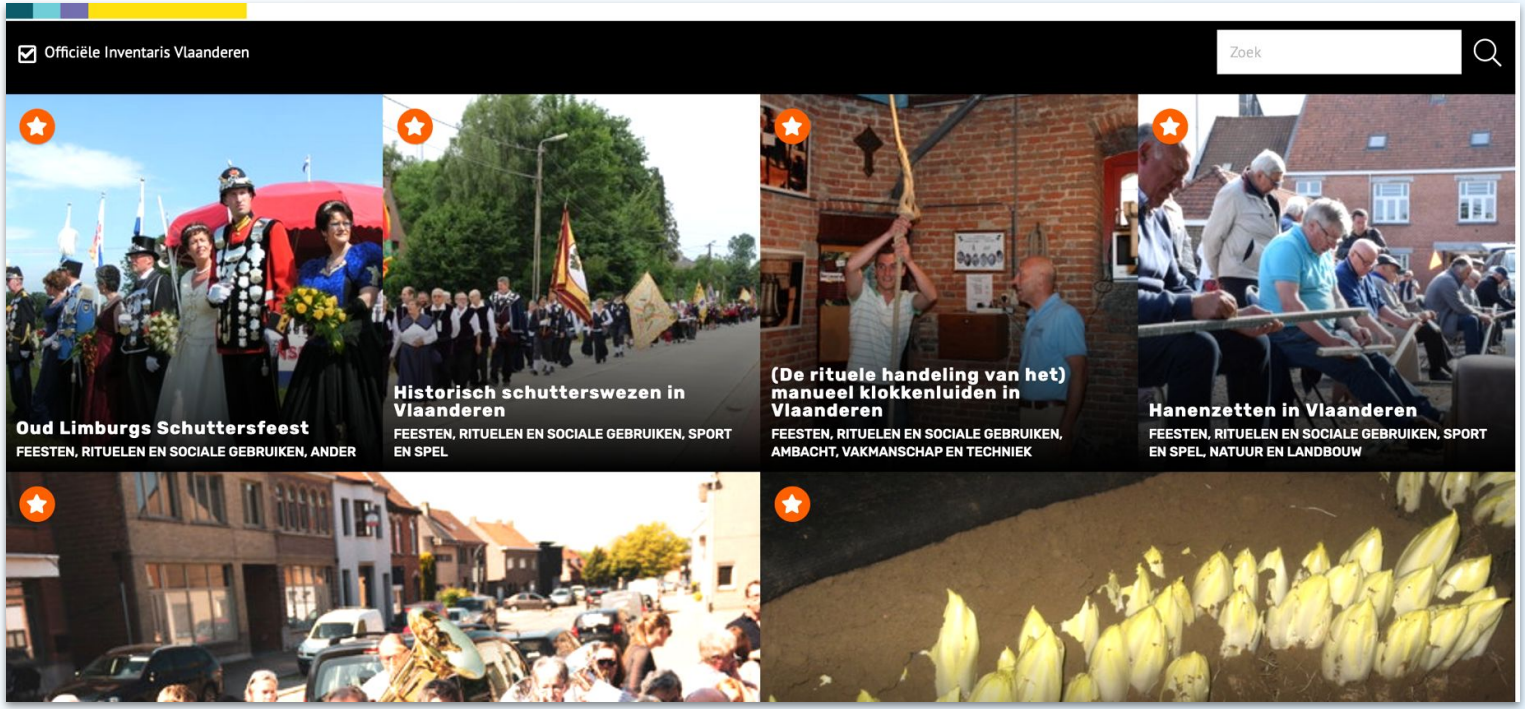
Article 12.1

*To ensure identification with a view to safeguarding, **each State party shall draw up**, in a manner geared to its own situation, one or more **inventories of ICH present in its territory**. These inventories shall be **regularly updated**.*

"In inventorying intangible heritage the process of involving communities is more important than the inventory itself"

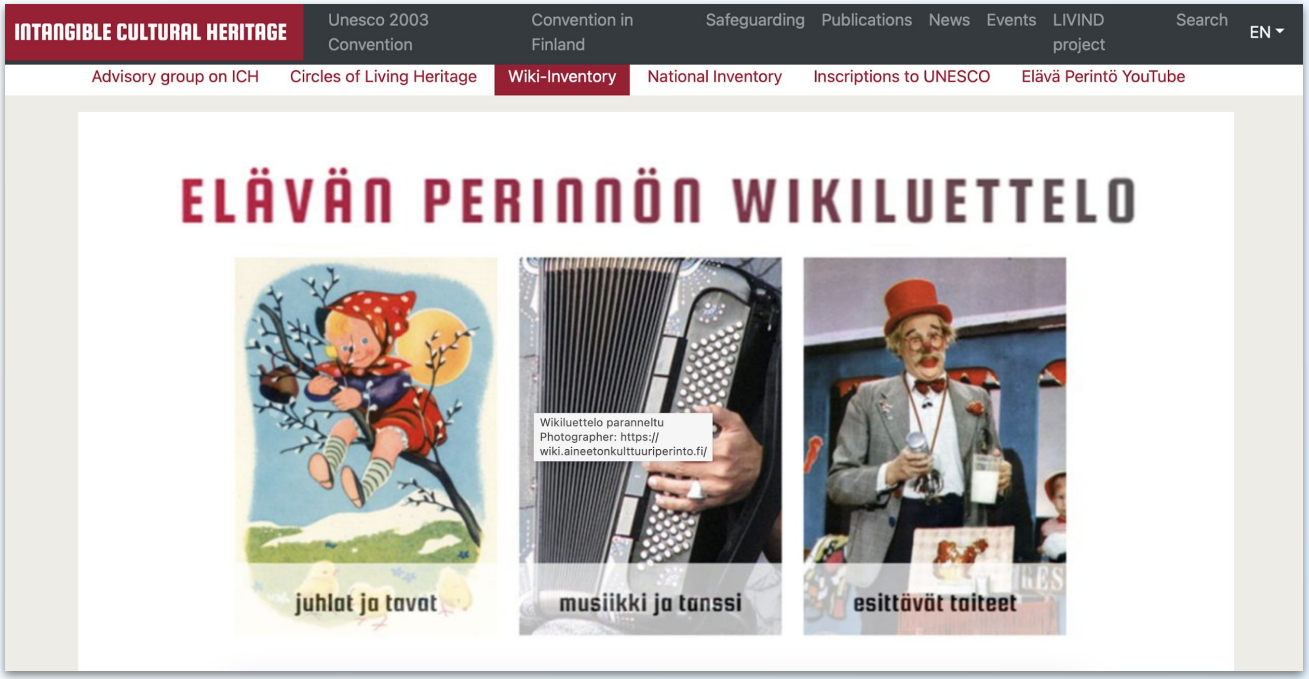
Tim Curtis – former secretary of the UNESCO 2003 Convention

Inventorying of ICH in Flanders



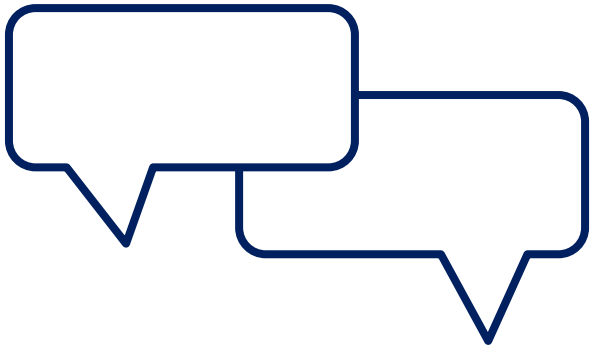
Inventorying of ICH in Finland

more soon …

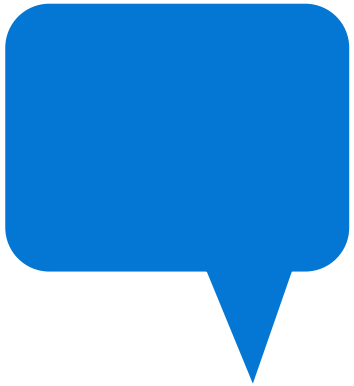


SAFEGUARDING LIVING HERITAGE IN FINLAND

a current overview of
the policies and practice



Q&A





Disclaimer: This presentation has been developed for a Capacity Building course on Safegruarding ICH with the UNESCO 2003 Convention. This material is partly building on field experience of the organizers and facilitators, and also partly drawing on the Capacity Building resources available in the Repository of Capacity Building materials of the UNESCO 2003 Convention, for which the following reference (see box below):

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